REMARKS

Claims 1-48 were pending in the application. Claims 22-48 have been cancelled, without prejudice, as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claim 2 has been amended and new claims 49-55 have been added. Thus, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-21 and 49-55, will remain pending in the application. Claims 4 and 11-15 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Support for new claims 49-55 may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Specifically, support for new claims 49-54 may be found in Tables 4 and 8 and at page 95, lines 12-17 of the specification; and support for new claim 55 may be found in Tables 4 and 8 and at page 10, lines 1-13 of the specification.

No new matter has been added to the application. Any amendments to and/or cancellation of the claims was done solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated April 12, 2006, the Examiner has required restriction, under 35 U.S.C. §121, between the following inventions in the above-identified application:

Group I. Claims 8-10, drawn to a method for assessing whether a person is afflicted with cervical cancer, said method comprising detecting the presence in a sample of one or a plurality of proteins corresponding to one or a plurality of markers, wherein said markers are selected from the group consisting of M1A, M718, OV3A, M719, M720, M5A, M10A, M29A, M30A, M721, M488A, M35, M722, M723, M666, M489A, OV43A, M51A, M58, M22A, M74A, and M78, as listed in Table 1 of the specification, classified, for example, in class 435, subclass 7.23.

Group II. Claims 11-15, drawn to a method for assessing whether a person is afflicted with cervical cancer, said method comprising detecting the presence in a sample of one or a plurality of transcribed polynucleotides, or complementary DNA molecules derived therefrom, corresponding to one or a plurality of markers, wherein said markers are selected from the group consisting of M1A, M718, OV3A, M719, M720, M5A, M10A, M29A,

M30A, M721, M488A, M35, M722, M723, M666, M489A, OV43A, M51A, M58, M22A, M74A, and M78, as listed in Table 1 of the specification, classified, for example, in class 435, subclass 6.

Groups III-XXIV. Claims 22-27, insofar as the claims are drawn to a method for monitoring the progression of cervical cancer in a patient, said method comprising detecting in a sample acquired from the patient the expression of a marker selected from the group the group consisting of (III) M1A, (IV) M718, (V) OV3A, (VI) M719, (VII) M720, (VIII) M5A, (IX) M10A, (X) M29A, (XI) M30A, (XII) M721, (XIII) M488A, (XIV) M35, (XV) M722, (XVI) M723, (XVII) M666, (XVIII) M489A, (XIX) OV43A, (XX) M51A, (XXI) M58, (XXII) M22A, (XXIII) M74A, and (XXIV) M78, as listed in Table 1 of the specification, classified, for example, in class 435, subclass 6.

Groups XXV-XLVII. Claims 22-27, insofar as the claims are drawn to a method for monitoring the progression of a premalignant condition in a patient, said method comprising detecting in a sample acquired from the patient the expression of a marker selected from the group the group consisting of (XXVI) M1A, (XXVII) M718, (XVIII) OV3A, (XXIX) M719, (XXX) M720, (XXXI) M5A, (XXXII) M10A, (XXXIII) M29A, (XXXIV) M30A, (XXXV) M721, (XXXVI) M488A, (XXXVII) M35, (XXXVIII) M722, (XXXIX) M723, (XL) M666, (XLI) M489A, (XLII) OV43A, (XLIII) M51A, (XLIV) M58, (XLV) M22A, (XLVI) M74A, and (XLVII) M78, as listed in Table 1 of the specification, classified, for example, in class 435, subclass 6.

Groups XLVIII-LXIX. Claims 28-30 and 32, insofar as the claims are directed to a method for assessing the efficacy of a test compound for inhibiting cervical cancer, or for selecting a composition for inhibiting cervical cancer, said method comprising exposing cervical cancer cells acquired from a patient to one or a plurality of test compounds/compositions and measuring the level of expression in the cells of a marker selected from the group the group consisting of (XLVIII) M1A, (XLIX) M718, (L) OV3A, (LI) M719, (LII) M720, (LIII) M5A, (LIV) M10A, (LV) M29A, (LVI) M30A, (LVII) M721, (LVIII) M488A, (LIX) M35, (LX) M722, (LXI) M723, (LXII) M666, (LXIII) M489A, (LXIV) OV43A, (LXV) M51A, (LXVI) M58, (LXVII) M22A, (LXVIII) M74A, and (LXIX) M78, as listed in Table 1 of the specification, classified, for example, in class 435, subclass 6.

Groups LXX-XCI. Claim 31, insofar as the claim is drawn to a method for assessing the efficacy of a therapy for inhibiting cervical cancer in a patient, said method comprising measuring the level of a marker before and after treating the patient, wherein said marker is selected from the group the group consisting of (LXX) M1A, (LXXI) M718, (LXXII) OV3A, (LXXIII) M719, (LXIV) M720, (LXV) M5A, (LXXVI) M10A, (LXXVII) M29A, (LXXVIII) M30A, (LXXIX) M721, (LXXX) M488A, (LXXXI) M35, (LXXXII) M722, (LXXXIII) M723, (LXXXIV) M666, (LXXXV) M489A, (LXXXVI) OV43A, (LXXXVII) M51A, (LXXXVIII) M58, (LXXXIX) M22A, (XC) M74A, and (XCI) M78, as listed in Table 1 of the specification, classified, for example, in class 435, subclass 6.

Groups XCII-CXII. Claims 33, 40, and 41 insofar as the claims are drawn to a method for inhibiting cervical cancer in a patient, or for treating cervical cancer in a patient, or for inhibiting cervical cancer in a patient at risk for developing cervical cancer, said method comprising administering to the patient an antisense oligonucleotide that lowers the level of expression of a marker, wherein said marker is selected from the group the group consisting of (XCII) M1A, (XCIII) M718, (XCIV) OV3A, (XCV) M719, (XCVI) M720, (XCVII) M5A, (XCVII) M10A, (XCVIII) M29A, (XCIX) M30A, (C) M721, (CI) M488A, (CII) M35, (CIII) M722, (CIV) M723, (CV) M666, (CVI) M489A, (CVII) OV43A, (CVIII) M51A, (CIX) M58, (CX) M22A, (CXI) M74A, and (CXII) M78, as listed in Table 1 of the specification, classified, for example, in class 514, subclass 44.

Group CXIII. Claims 34, 36, and 39, drawn to a kit comprising one or more reagents, which cannot be classified because the chemical and biologic nature of the one or more reagents is not specified.

Groups CXIV-CXXXV. Claims 35 and 42-44, insofar as the claims are drawn to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of a marker, a vector comprising said nucleic acid molecule, a host cell containing said nucleic acid molecule, and a kit comprising a nucleic acid probe that specifically binds to a transcribed polynucleotide corresponding to a marker, wherein said marker is selected from the group [the group] consisting of (CXIV) M1A, (CXV) M718, (CXVI) OV3A, (CXVII) M719, (CXVIII) M720, (CXIX) M5A, (CXX) M10A, (CXXI) M29A, (CXXII) M30A, (CXXIII) M721, (CXXIV) M488A, (CXXV) M35, (CXXVI) M722, (CXXVI) M723, (CXXVIII) M666, (CXXIX) M489A, (CXXX) OV43A, (CXXXI) M51A, (CXXXII) M58, (CXXXIII) M22A, (CXXXIV) M74A, and (CXXXV) M78, as listed in Table 1 of the specification, classified, for example, in class 536, subclass 23.5, class 435, subclass 320.1, class 435, subclass 325, and class 536, subclass 24.31, respectively.

Groups CXXXVI-CLVII. Claims 37, 46, and 48, insofar as the claims are drawn to an antibody, or a kit comprising said antibody, wherein said antibody binds specifically or selectively to a polypeptide corresponding to a marker, wherein said marker is selected from the group the group consisting of (CXXXVI) M1A, (CXXXVII) M718, (CXXXVIII) OV3A, (CXXXIX) M719, (CXL) M720, (CXLI) MSA, (CXLII) M10A, (CXLIII) M29A, (CXLIV) M30A, (CXLV) M721, (CXLVI) M488A, (CXLVII) M35, (CXLVIII) M722, (CXLIX) M723, (CL) M666, (CLI) M489A, (CLII) OV43A, (CLIII) M51A, (CLIV) M58, (CLV) M22A, (CLVI) M74A, and (CLVII) M78, as listed in Table 1 of the specification, classified, for example, in class 530, subclass 387.9.

Groups CLVIII-CLXXIX. Claim 38, insofar as the claim is drawn to a method for assessing the cervical cell carcinogenic potential of a test compound, said method comprising maintaining separate aliquots of cervical cells in the presence or absence of a test compound and determining the level of expression of a marker, wherein said marker is selected from the group the group consisting of (CLVIII) M1A, (CLIX) M718, (CLX) OV3A, (CLXI) M719, (CLXII) M720, (CLXIII) M5A, (CLXIV) M10A, (CLXV) M29A, (CLXVI) M30A, (CLXVII) M721, (CLXVIII) M488A, (CLXIX) M35, (CLXX) M722,

(CLXXI) M723, (CLXXII) M666, (CLXXIII) M489A, (CLXXIV) OV43A, (CLXXV) M51A, (CLXXVI) M58, (CLXXVII) M22A, (CLXXVIII) M74A, and (CLXXIX) M78, as listed in Table 1 of the specification, classified, for example, in class 435, subclass 6.

Groups CLXXX-CC. Claims 45 and 47, insofar as the claims are drawn to a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of (CLXXX) SEQ ID NO: 1, (CXC) SEQ ID NO: 7, (CXCI) SEQ ID NO: 9, (CXCII) SEQ ID NO: 11, (CXCIII) SEQ ID NO: 17, (CXCIV) SEQ ID NO: 19, (CXCV) SEQ ID NO: 21, (CXCVI) SEQ ID NO: 23, (CXCVII) SEQ ID NO: 25, (CXCVIII) SEQ ID NO: 27, (CXCIX) SEQ ID NO: 33, and (CC) SEQ ID NO: 43, classified, for example, in class 530, subclass 350.

Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, **Group I** (claims 8-10) directed to a method for assessing whether a person is afflicted with cervical cancer, said method comprising detecting the presence in a sample of one or a plurality of proteins corresponding to one or a plurality of markers, wherein said markers are selected from the group consisting of M1A, M718, OV3A, M719, M720, M5A, M10A, M29A, M30A, M721, M488A, M35, M722, M723, M666, M489A, OV43A, M51A, M58, M22A, M74A, and M78, as listed in Table 1 of the specification.

It is Applicants' understanding, and the Examiner has so indicated, that claims 1-7 and 16-21 are linking claims, linking the inventions of Groups I and II. It is also Applicants' understanding that upon the allowance of the linking claims, the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions (Groups I and II) will be withdrawn and the linking claims and any claims dependent thereon or otherwise including the limitations thereof, will be examined.

The Examiner has further required the election of a single species of a marker selected from M1A, M718, OV3A, M719, M720, M5A, M10A, M29A, M30A, M721, M488A, M35, M722, M723, M666, M489A, OV43A, M51A, M58, M22A, M74A, and M78, as listed in Table 1 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicants further elect the *species* of the marker **KCNAB1 (M666)**, for continued examination, without traverse.

It is Applicants' understanding that upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species, which are written in dependent form, or otherwise, include all of the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' Attorney would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' Attorney at (617) 227-740.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. MRI-062 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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